

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 01237 200055Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /107 W
-----101996 200112Z /65

R 200013Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2465
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1237

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, UG, AS, SHUM
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSIONS OF UGANDA

REF: (A) NAIROBI 2146, (B) STATE 037602, (C) NAIROBI 2456

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY GOA'S
CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE TO PERMIT AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
DUNN'S OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING HIS RECENT VISIT TO UGANDA
TO BE USED BY US IN CONNECTION WITH CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS BY UGANDA.

2. PRIMARY CONSIDERATION WAS, OF COURSE, GOA'S DESIRE NOT TO
TIE POTENTIAL CRITICISM OF UGANDA DIRECTLY TO VISIT TO UGANDA BY
AUSTRALIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TO THAT COUNTRY.
AUSTRALIA IS PREPARING A REPORT BASED AT LEAST IN PART ON
DUNN'S VISIT WHICH IT HOPES CAN BE CITED, AS NOTED IN REF C.

3. SECONDARY REASON WAS GOA'S RELUCTANCE TO HAVE
AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC REPORT USED BY US FOR ITS OWN
PURPOSES EVEN BEFORE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 01237 200055Z

COULD BE BRIEFED. THE APPEARANCE OF US EAGERNESS TO USE
WHAT WAS IN FACT A CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING PROVIDED SOLELY
FOR INFORMATION BY A HIGH-RANKING AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT
RATHER STARTLED WORKING LEVELS IN DFA. AUSTRALIA FULLY
SHARES US IN APPROPRIATE FORA. IT IS, HOWEVER, A BIT
SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WISDOM OF USING ONE-TIME VISITS SUCH
AS DUNN'S -- WHICH WAS UNDERTAKEN FOR PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING

THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN UGANDA AND AUSTRALIA -- AS AN OBSERVATION PLATFORM FOR POSSIBLE CRITICISM OF THE FORMER.

4. WE SUSPECT THAT GOA'S RELUCTANCE TO SEE U.S. USE DUNN'S COMMENTS, WHICH WERE GIVEN TO U.S. IN CONFIDENCE, WAS PROBABLY AT LEAST PARTLY CONDITIONED BY RECENT REVELATION THAT THREE PREVIOUS SUCH EXCHANGES (DEBRIEFINGS GIVEN TO US EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK, VIENTIANE AND HONG KONG) WERE COMPROMISED BY USIS OFFICIAL CURRENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT IN WASHINGTON FOR ESPIONAGE. WHILE GOA WANTS TO HAVE FULL EXCHANGES BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS, IT HOPES THESE EXCHANGES WILL BE PROTECTED, AND IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUBSCRIBE TO THE CONTEMPORARY BELIEF THAT THE BEST WAY TO FURTHER FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IS TO RUSH INTO PRINT BY DECLASSIFYING CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES.
ALSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER01237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780077-0431
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdqg.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd1461d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NAIROBI 2146, 78 STATE 37602, 78 NAIROBI 2456
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3542875
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSIONS OF UGANDA
TAGS: PINR, SHUM, UG, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd1461d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014